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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PERSONAL
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AMERICAN EMBASSY
Paris, December 30, 1955

Dear Mr. Stevens:

A letter has been received by Mr. John P. Mazionis, of this office, from Mr. Stasys Zymantas, stating that the latter intends to emigrate from England to the United States, and requests assistance in the procurement of an immigration visa.

Mr. Zymantas is one of the leading members of the Lithuanian Resistance Alliance, with headquarters in London. He has a long resistance record and was one of the most active leaders of Lithuanian resistance under the first Russian occupation and the German occupation. For the past five years he has very actively cooperated with the Paris Peripheral Unit, through Mr. Mazionis, and is known personally by Messrs. Landreth Harrison and F. Merrill. The Lithuanian files of the Eastern European Affairs Office can reveal to what extent he has furnished information and comments on Lithuanian affairs over the mentioned period.

It is known that Mr. Zymantas has a knowledge of English, Polish, German, French and Russian, besides his native Lithuanian. He is a close student of Russian affairs and Communist activities and would be a useful asset to the Free Europe organization and ACEN Lithuanian Panel. Mr. Mazionis considers him extremely valuable in the planning of any psychological warfare activities, especially with a program directed toward countries behind the Iron Curtain. It might be added here, that during the entire period of his cooperation with this office, Mr. Zymantas received no compensation. His present address is: Mr. Stasys Zymantas, 3 Wolverton Gardens, London, W.5.

The

Francis B. Stevens, Esquire,
Director, Office of Eastern European Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

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The reasons for his rather sudden decision to emigrate are: 1) His aged mother-in-law, Mrs. Birziska, was found drowned on the beach at Los Angeles and his aged father-in-law, Professor Birziska, one of the surviving signatories of the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence, is destitute; 2) Very shortly after this tragedy, his brother-in-law died suddenly in Los Angeles and left destitute a widow and three minor children. It is in order to support these relatives, that Mr. Zymantas has practically been forced to seek entry into the United States. He is anxious, however, to continue in the United States the work of fighting the Communist danger and seeking the liberation of Lithuania. Mr. Zymantas states that he has a reason for not mentioning in his enclosed curriculum vitae the fact that in 1945 or 1946 he was the authorized representative of the Lithuanian Resistance organizations operating in Lithuania. A copy of his biography is enclosed herewith and it would be appreciated if it were returned to this office after it has served its purpose.

I consider this a well merited case and worthy of extra effort on our part to extend a helping hand to Mr. Zymantas.

Sincerely,

John E. Horner
John E. Horner
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

Copy of biography, as stated.

Copy to:

Norris B. Chipman, Esquire,
AMEMBASSY, LONDON.

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S. Zymantas-Zakevicius, born of Lithuanian parents at Kiev, Russia, on April 22, 1908.

At that time his father, Romualdas Zakevicius, being a Roman Catholic and a Lithuanian was unable to obtain a position in his own profession in Lithuania and was therefore obliged to accept one in Russia. Only in 1911 did he manage to return to Lithuania with his family.

In 1927 S. Zymantas-Zakevicius, after graduating from the "Ausra" High School (gymnasium) in Kaunas, Lithuania, ~~finally~~ entered the Law Faculty of the University in that city.

In January 1933 he graduated from the Law Faculty of that University with a jurist's diploma corresponding to the degree of LL. After his graduation he was elected junior assistant of the same faculty and in December 1933 (or 1934) was promoted to senior assistant.

In 1934 S. Zymantas-Zakevicius was sent by the Faculty to Paris, where for a year he studied constitutional and administrative law (government and public administration) under Professors Jazez, Mestre and others at the Paris University Law Faculty.

In 1935 S. Zymantas-Zakevicius was granted a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship and went to the United States where during the autumn of 1935-36 he studied at the Harvard Law School and Harvard University, department of government, under Professors F. Frankfurter and L.B. Leach. He spent the summer session working at Chicago University. At the same time he visited several scientific and research institutions in the USA concerned with

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Public Administration.

When the Rockefeller Foundation fellowship was extended a second year on his behalf, S. Symantas-Zakevicius returned to Europe where he continued his studies at the London School of Economics under Professor W. A. Robson, H. Laski, and again in Paris, and combined these studies with visits to scientific and research institutions in Brussels, the Law Faculty of the Bordeaux University and elsewhere.

In the autumn of 1937 S. Symantas-Zakevicius returned to Lithuania and resumed his work at the Law Faculty of the Kaunas University as senior assistant and lecturer on administrative law.

Concurrently S. Symantas-Zakevicius in the capacity of an expert worked on the committee for reform of the Lithuanian civil service attached to the Ministry of Finance and was appointed member of the committee on administrative reform in Lithuania which was formed in the Prime Minister's office.

S. Symantas-Zakevicius was also appointed expert-collaborator to the Lithuanian Council of State. In 1939, when the Vilnius region was restored to Lithuania he was invited to join the Lithuanian Government Delegate to the Vilnius region as legal adviser.

In the summer of 1939 S. Symantas-Zakevicius went to Poland with the Lithuanian delegation at the invitation of the Polish Institute of Public Administration.

In the autumn of 1939 the entire Law Faculty of Kaunas University was transferred to Vilnius.

In 1940 a reorganization of the Law Faculty took place when its section on economics became a separate faculty. S. Symantas-

akevicius was appointed assistant professor and vice-dean of the Law Faculty and taught administrative law, public administration and comparative constitutional law (comparative government).

In 1941 S. Vyantas-Zakevicius was appointed dean of the Law Faculty.

At the same time both during the first Soviet occupation in of 1940-41 and the German Nazi occupation of 1941-44, S. Vyantas-Zakevicius took an active part in the Lithuanian national resistance movement for the restoration of the independence of Lithuania. In 1940 he joined an underground organization known as the Lithuanian Activist Front and led an uprising in Vilnius in June 1941, becoming chairman of the Lithuanian Vilnius Committee which took over the administration of Vilnius and the Vilnius region, but which was closed down by the German occupational authorities. The Lithuanian Provisional Government which came into power after the June uprising of 1941 also appointed him its delegate to the Vilnius region.

Soon after this S. Vyantas-Zakevicius joined the underground resistance movement called the Lithuanian Freedom Fighters' Union and became chief of its Vilnius staff. He wrote in the underground newspapers and himself published and edited one called "True Word". He was also a member of the underground Lithuanian political committee of the Vilnius region.

S. Vyantas-Zakevicius led the resistance movement of the university circles against the German efforts to mobilize Lithuanian youth in the s.s. Lithuanian SS legion. When all German efforts had failed all Lithuanian universities were closed down by the German

authorities.

S. Zymantas-Zakevicius also took an active part in the activities of the Supreme Lithuanian Committee which was at that time established in Kaunas, and later in the activities of the Supreme Committee of Liberation of Lithuania. In the autumn of 1943 he went on a secret mission to Latvia and in 1943 and 1944 conducted secret talks in Vilnius with the representatives of the Polish Resistance.

In 1944 when the Soviet army was advancing towards Lithuania, S. Zymantas-Zakevicius, unable to remain in Lithuania, was delegated by the Supreme Committee of Liberation of Lithuania to organize its delegation abroad, of which too he became a member. This Delegation carried on its underground activities in Berlin in 1944-45.

In April 1945, already in liberated Western Germany, S. Zymantas-Zakevicius became a member of the Supreme Committee of Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK) which was re-established abroad.

From 1945 to 1946 S. Zymantas-Zakevicius took part in organizing the Baltic University in Hamburg and taught there for some time. Throughout this period he took an active part in the Lithuanian national resistance ~~antifascist~~ movement.

In May 1948 S. Zymantas-Zakevicius went over to Great Britain at the invitation of the Birmingham University to join its Faculty of Social Sciences, where he worked for a year as a research fellow. In the spring of 1949 he left the university to take over again Lithuanian national political and resistance activities. At present he is vice-chairman of the Lithuanian Association in Great Britain, secretary to the Committee of Liberal Exiles, and member of the

Executive Committee of the Liberal International, member of the London Committee of Free Representatives of Central and Eastern European Countries, and editor of the magazine "East and West".

War and enemy occupation of his native land prevented S. Zymantas-Zekavicius from defending his thesis for his doctor's degree. For the same reason all his other main works have remained unpublished. They comprise: "Government Liability in Tort: A comprehensive Study", "Administrative Theory", "Lithuanian Public Administration", "Reform of the Lithuanian Civil Service: A proposed Draft and Comments".

His special subjects of study are: Constitutional Law, and Comparative Government, Comparative Administrative Law and Public Administration. He is well read in international relations. He has also closely followed the development of the Soviet regime and Communism. Languages: Lithuanian, Russian (good knowledge), Polish, French, English, German.

S. Zymantas-Zekavicius in 1933 married Marija Birzioka. Her father, former Rector of Vilnius University and signatory of the Declaration of the independence of Lithuania at Vilnius in 1918, at present lives in the USA at Los Angeles, together with his second daughter and his three grandchildren.

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